

Appl. No.: 10/058,993
Amdt. Dated: April 14, 2004
Off. Act. Dated: January 14, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and discussion presented herein.

1. **Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner is thanked for allowing Claims 56-68 and for finding that Claims 3-15, 17-29, 31-40 and 43-55 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims.

In response, the Applicant has amended the claims to include certain limitations as indicated by the Examiner. In particular, the claims have been amended as follows:

- a) Claim 3 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 1. Claims 3-10 should now be in condition for allowance.
- b) Claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 1. Claims 11-15 should now be in condition for allowance.
- c) Claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 16. Claims 17-24 should now be in condition for allowance.
- d) Claim 25 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 16. Claims 25-29 should now be in condition for allowance.
- e) Claim 31 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 30. Claims 31-32 should now be in condition for allowance.
- f) Claim 33 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 30. Claims 33-41 should now be in condition for allowance.
- g) Claim 43 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 42. Claims 43-46 should now be in condition for allowance.
- h) Claim 47 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 42. Claims 47-55 should now be in condition for allowance.

In sum, Claims 3-15, 17-29, 31-41 and 43-55 have been amended and should now be allowable in view of those amendments.

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2. Rejection of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

A. Claims 1, 2 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Precetti (U.S. No. 6,158,926).

In response, the Applicant has canceled Claim 1, Claim 2 and Claim 16.

B. Claims 30, 41 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pullen (U.S. No. 4,995,138).

In response, the Applicant has canceled Claims 30 and 42 and amended Claim 41 to include limitations of Claim 31 found to be allowable.

The foregoing amendments are made in order to expedite prosecution and without waiver or disclaimer of the subject matter of the cancelled claims.

3. Conclusion.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

The Applicant also respectfully requests a telephone interview with the Examiner in the event that there are questions regarding this response, or if the next action on the merits is not an allowance of all pending claims.

Date: 4/14/04

Respectfully submitted,


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